



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
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**Division of Mental Health, Developmental
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Michael Moseley, Director

Office of Rural Health and Community Care

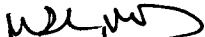
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Torlen Wade, Director

March 12, 2007

MEMORANDUM

To: NC Medical Schools Psychiatric Training Directors
LME Medical Directors
LME Directors
NC Psychiatric Association
NC Psychological Association
National Association of Social Workers -NC
Licensed Professional Counselors Association of NC
NC Nurses Association
NC Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
AHEC Directors

FROM: Torlen Wade, Director 
Office of Rural Health and Community Care

Dr. Michael Lancaster, MD, Chief Clinical Policy Director
Division of MH/DD/SAS 

**SUBJECT: Loan Repayment Program (Federal and State) based on Health Professionals
Shortage Areas – Mental Health**

In an effort to recruit psychiatrists and other behavioral health care professionals in areas of North Carolina that need psychiatric and other behavioral health care expertise, the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services (Division of MH/DD/SAS) and the Office of Rural Health and Community Care wish to inform you that two possible sources of loan repayment, federal and state, will be available. Loan repayment and other incentives are available to psychiatrists and to other behavioral health care professionals who agree to work in designated Health Professional Shortage Areas for Mental Health (Mental Health HPSAs) in North Carolina or in a county that has been identified as having psychiatrist/behavior health care professional shortages and given priority by the Division of MH/DD/SAS.

Federal loan repayment and other incentive funds (up to \$120,000 per recipient for a commitment of four years) are available through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). State loan repayment funds and other incentives (up to \$70,000 per recipient for commitment of four years) are available through the Office of Rural Health and Community Care's State Loan Repayment Program. More detailed information can be accessed for both loan repayment offers at <http://www.ncruralhealth.org/services.html#inc> or call 1-800-533-8847.

Federal Loan Repayment Program

HRSA's loan repayment funds may be accessed by a psychiatrist when s/he contracts to work for two to four years within the catchment area of a designated Local Management Entity/Area Program, designated counties, designated facilities, or Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). A Mental Health HPSA designation is accompanied by a score from 1 to 20, with the higher scores (about 13 and above) being more likely to receive HRSA's federal loan repayment dollars than lower scores. It should be noted that federal loan repayment through HRSA is also possible for **clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, psychiatrist nurse specialists, licensed professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists** who contract to work in Mental Health HPSAs.

Mental health practitioners, who are interested in the federal loan repayment program, should call 1-800-638-0824 to request a personal application. Additional information can be found at <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov>. It is recommended that the interested provider review the applicant information bulletin. Tameca Jackson, LICSW, is the mental health specialist for the National Health Service Corps. For additional information, her email is tjackson@NHSCSupportCenter.net or 1-866-7872 ext 3015.

Please note: If an area or facility has been designated as a Mental Health HPSA, the interested psychiatrist/behavior health care professional must first apply for and be rejected for federal loan repayment before applying for the state funds described below.

State Loan Repayment Program

State loan repayment funds will be available only to psychiatrists who contract to work for two to four years (up to \$70,000) in HPSA-designated catchment areas, counties, facilities, and FQHCs that do not qualify for HRSA funds due to low scores (i.e., probably below 13).



Bonuses may be available to child psychiatrists who agree to work in HPSA-designated catchment areas, counties, facilities, and FQHCs that do not qualify for HRSA funds due to low scores.

Bonuses may also be available to psychiatrists with special language skills, such as fluency in American Sign Language, Spanish or another foreign language that is spoken by a substantial number of underserved consumers in an area. These bonuses will be available for psychiatrists who agree to work with consumers in the publicly-funded MH/DD/SAS system in any area of North Carolina, for which there is a documented need for such combined psychiatric and communications skills.

Bonuses may also be available to provide incentives for psychiatrists to continue working in certain areas. One time bonuses, subject to availability of funds, may be available to psychiatrists who work in HPSA-designated catchment areas or counties. [This does not apply to psychiatrists working in FQHCs or state facilities.]

For more information about the State Loan Repayment Program please see <http://www.ncruralhealth.org/services.html#inc> or call 1-800-533-8847. If you have any questions that are not addressed through the state and federal program contacts noted above, please contact Art Eccleston, Psy.D. by phone (919-733-7011) or email (Art.Eccleston@ncmail.net) in the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services.

Locations of Need for Psychiatrists and/or Other Behavioral Health Professionals

HPSA designations are determined according to one of the following types: geographic (i.e., catchment area or single county), population (i.e., ratio of low professional availability to high needs in the population), or facility (e.g., FQHC, state psychiatric hospital, and others). Additionally, Local Management Entities were given the opportunity to nominate other counties (non-HPSA designated) in which psychiatric shortages were believed to exist.

Three tables below provide information about the Mental Health HPSAs within North Carolina that are currently designated by HRSA, and are differentiated according to type of designation. [Note: There are no current population-type Mental Health HPSA designations in North Carolina.] The fourth table represents the counties that were identified by Local Management Entities because of the shortage of psychiatrists.

Table 1
Geographic Area Designations
(Eligible for Federal or State Funds)

Single County	*Area Program Catchment Area	HPSA Score
Bladen	Southeastern Regional	16
Brunswick	No catchment area designation	13



Caldwell	No catchment area designation	9
Cherokee	Smoky Mountain	13
Clay	Smoky Mountain	13
Columbus	Southeastern Regional	16
Duplin	Duplin-Sampson	14
Graham	Smoky Mountain	13
Haywood	Smoky Mountain	13
Jackson	Smoky Mountain	13
Macon	Smoky Mountain	13
Madison	No catchment area designation	15
Pender	No catchment area designation	15
Robeson	Southeastern Regional	16
Sampson	Duplin-Sampson	14
Scotland	Southeastern Regional	16
Swain	Smoky Mountain	13

*HRSA made the above Mental Health HPSA designations prior to the transformation of Area Programs to Local Management Entities.

Table 2
Federal Facility Designations
(Eligible for Federal and State Funds)

Location (County)	FQHC	HPSA Score
Anson	Anson Regional Community Health Center	12
Beaufort	Metropolitan Community Health Center	8
Buncombe	**Western NC Community Health Center	6
Cabarrus	Cabarrus Community Health Center	10
Caswell	Caswell Family Medical Center	10
Cumberland	Stedman-Wade Health Center	12
Durham	Lincoln Community Health Center	8
Gaston	Gaston Family Health Services,	13



	Inc.	
Greene	Greene County Health Care, Inc.	10
Halifax	Twin Country Rural	10
Harnett	Western Medical Group	11
Henderson	Blue Ridge Community Health	8
Lenoir	Kinston Community Health Center	20
Madison	**Hot Springs Health Program	7
Mecklenburg	Metrolina Comprehensive Health Center	10
New Hanover	New Hanover Community Health Center	9
Northampton	Rural Health Group, Inc.	12
Orange	Piedmont Health Services	9
Person	Person Family Medical	11
Robeson	Robeson Healthcare Corporation	9
Sampson	Tri-County Community Health	18
Sampson	Goshen Medical Center	12
Wake	Wake Health Services, Inc.	5
Warren	Vance-Warren Comprehensive Health Center	16
Wilson	Wilson Community Health	6

** Look-alike Federally Qualified Health Center



Table 3
State Facility Designations
(Eligible for State funds only)

Location (County)	Facility	HPSA Score
Burke	Broughton Hospital	8
Granville	John Umstead Hospital	8
Wayne	Cherry Hospital	8

Table 4
Counties Identified by Local Management Entities
(Eligible for State funds only)

Location (County)	Local Management Entity
Alamance	Alamance-Caswell-Rockingham
Caswell	Alamance-Caswell-Rockingham
Rockingham	Alamance-Caswell-Rockingham
Halifax	Five County
Vance	Five County
Warren	Five County
Alexander	Foothills
Burke	Foothills
Caldwell	Foothills
McDowell	Foothills
Mitchell	Western Highlands
Polk	Western Highlands
Rutherford	Western Highlands
Transylvania	Western Highlands
Yancey	Western Highlands

ML:tb

cc: NC Medical Society

NC Community Support Providers Council

NC Council of Community MH/DD/SAS Programs

